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City seeks feedback to drive future Downtown public art project

HARRISONBURG, Va. – The City of Harrisonburg, with partners The Arts Council of the Valley and Harrisonburg Downtown Renaissance, is seeking the community's ideas and desires for a new public art project that will serve as a gateway to the City's Downtown.

The project will sit at Downtown's northern entrance, where North Main Street and Liberty Street split in the area of Merge Coffee. The sculpture, which will be funded by federal Community Development Block Grant funds, should be a project that will stand the test of time, bring the Harrisonburg community together, and showcase the values and vision of The Friendly City.

A survey is now available for members of the public at www.surveymonkey.com/r/F2GZKH3 asking for input on what themes and styles are most important for the art installation to represent. Participants are encouraged to detail what they believe is special about the Harrisonburg community, and how they feel that can be highlighted through this project.

The survey will remain available until Friday, July 15.



The City of Harrisonburg and its partners are seeking public input on the design of a new gateway art project that will welcome visitors to Downtown. The sculpture will be located in the area where North Main Street and Liberty Street split on the northern end of Downtown (above).

"This project is a unique opportunity for our community to shape an initiative that will welcome visitors to our Downtown for many generations to come while showcasing what makes this such an incredible, welcoming place we all are proud to be part of," Harrisonburg Community Development Block Grant Coordinator Kristin McCombe said. "Harrisonburg already has an existing sculpture at the southern entrance to Downtown, so we are eager and excited for the opportunity to bookend that work of art with another impactful gateway to the heart of our city."

Once survey results are complete, a committee including a City Council representative, City staff and partner agency representatives will begin the process of outlining what the project will include and locating an artist to complete the work.

More information regarding the project will be posted to the City's social media pages once available.

The City of Harrisonburg is centrally located in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It is home to 51,000 people. More information about the City of Harrisonburg is online at www.HarrisonburgVA.gov.

